

Meeting Summary with AI Companion
Marshfield PHE Collaborative Zoom Meeting
3/22/24
6:00 PM

Quick recap

The meeting covered a range of topics including computer issues, recent illnesses, and a computer issue. A motion was proposed to add a new agenda item for discussing changing the lead municipality, which was agreed to include under new business. A point of order was raised about confirming the chair, which was clarified would be addressed later. The team then voted on changing the host community, but there was confusion about the new host. A motion was made and seconded to discuss new business before old business, which is pending a vote. The conversation ended with a motion to remove Pembroke from the Marshfield collaborative.

Next steps

Attend the MAHB program on the 20th or 27th.

Lisa will reach out to the chairman of the Board of Health to set up an emergency meeting.

Delshaune will submit her MSA for the grant.

Mike will contact BME Strategies to inform them of their retention and to prepare for the next meeting.

Mike will discuss with Delshaune and Gary about potentially adding Hanson to the group.

Summary

Team Discussion: Computer Issues, Illnesses, and Changing Lead Municipality

The team discussed several topics, starting with Maureen's computer issue, which Gary attempted to resolve. Maureen was at Gary's office sitting behind him throughout the meeting. Ben proposed a motion to add a new agenda item for discussing and voting on changing the lead municipality, which Mike agreed to include under new business. A point of order was raised by Gary confirming Mike as chair for this meeting, which Mike clarified would be addressed later. Later, a motion was made and seconded to discuss new business before old business, which passed unanimously.

Voting Rights and Contractual Obligations

Mike clarified that only towns with fully executed and returned letters of commitment and inter municipal agreements are eligible to vote. Hanover was excluded from voting until their director can recommend proceeding with the program to their Board of Health. Norwell and Pembroke had not returned signed copies of their inter municipal agreements, making them ineligible to vote on some issues, subject to the approval of voting members at the appropriate time. Ben expressed concerns about the potential impact of these exclusions on decision making. Mike emphasized the importance of legal certainty to avoid court challenges. Once explained to Ben, all agreed with the process. The conversation ended with Gary making a motion to remove Pembroke from the Marshfield collaborative, which was seconded by Delshaune, and passed unanimously as discussed below. Mike thanked Maureen for her service, and expressed regret that it came to that.

Group Tension and Hiring Process Concerns

Delshaune raised a complaint with the Attorney General by Maureen and the means of doing so, citing concerns about tension within the group and misleading language in emails. There was a misunderstanding about a scheduled meeting that Delshaune felt was adding unnecessary negativity,

stating that she felt as if she were walking on eggshells when dealing with Maureen. Meanwhile, Mike and Gary discussed a Request for Response document used in the hiring process. Mike expressed concern about the time dedicated to this task and allegations of favoritism. Other towns had also previously expressed a desire to have Maureen leave the group due to these issues.

Board of Health Meeting Complaint, Funding, Contracts, Rumors, Open Meeting Laws

Mike discussed the potential need for a special meeting of the Pembroke Board of Health to address an open meeting law complaint, but it was ultimately tabled the night before the current meeting. He also highlighted a deadline for reporting to the Department of Public Health Office of Local and Regional Health about the group's membership and mentioned that Marshfield had been funding the group until January due to a delay in contracts and checks from the Accounting and Finance department at DPH and the resulting deadline of the next day. Mike further discussed the upcoming 3-year contract that requires all 51 groups to be solidified by the end of the next business day. Maureen addressed rumors about his potential conflict of interest and denied any intent to hire a friend for a job. She emphasized her role as an elected official for the town of Pembroke and her experience in the group, highlighting concerns about adherence to open meeting laws.

Maureen's Regrets and Compliance Concerns

Maureen expressed regret for not informing Delshawn about her visit and for the confusion caused by the cancelled meeting. Gary corrected her that there was not even a meeting to cancel. She shared her insights from an inspection with Delshawn, which she found beneficial. Maureen also raised concerns about the group's compliance with open meeting laws. She filed a complaint and requested access to minutes from previous meetings and a recording of a specific meeting. She emphasized her commitment to public service and her desire to ensure the group was functioning as a public regional body.

Disagreements and Recommendations in Collaborative

Mike and Maureen had a discussion about the posting of meeting documents on Gary's website, but there was a disagreement about the frequency of posting. Mike highlighted that there was no obligation until the collaborative actually became formed and became a "public body." They also discussed a document Maureen had shared, with Mike pointing out that Maureen had not signed it and was not yet a member of the collaborative. The conversation then shifted to a newly formed cross-jurisdictional sharing arrangement involving multiple municipalities. Mike expressed hope that everyone involved will continue to vote on the issues that followed this one which was confined. To the two towns that had signed the IMA. Delshaune emphasized the need to move forward as a positive and successful group and that was not possible with the hostile actions of one member. Towards the end, Maureen recommended that everyone take open meeting law training and Mike urged all present to attend the upcoming MAHB program for further understanding of public records and ethics issues.

Pembroke's Representative Removal Discussed

There was a discussion about removing Pembroke from the Marshfield Public Health Collaborative due to issues with their representative, Maureen. Mike suggested giving Pembroke an opportunity to appoint a new representative before making a final decision. Delshaune and Gary agreed to this proposal, and a vote was held to remove Pembroke pending further action by the Pembroke Board of Health. The group also decided that the final decision would be up to the Pembroke Board of Health to decide who the new representative should be.

Progress Report and Contract Discussion

Mike reported to the Department of Public Health about the progress of the group and the upcoming contract for the host community. A discussion about the group's contract until the end of the fiscal year was initiated, with Delshaune showing interest in assuring the program's longevity. Ben proposed resolving the motion to change the lead municipality before proceeding with the BME discussion. Lisa was tasked with arranging an emergency meeting of the Board of Health. Lisa and Mike discussed the possibility of allowing phone-in scenarios for emergency meetings.

Leadership Transition in Public Health Group

The meeting revolved around the future leadership and management of a group. There was a discussion about whether Marshfield should continue to lead the group or if Rockland should take over, with Delshaun expressing support for Rockland. Ben emphasized the importance of moving forward and highlighted Rockland's enthusiasm and engagement. Gary, however, voiced his preference for Marshfield to continue leading. Ben reminded the group of the hard deadline of March 27th, suggesting that any potential changes in leadership must be acted upon immediately.

Lead Municipality Change Approved, BME Strategies Retained

Ben, Mike, and others discussed the potential changes in the lead municipality, with Mike highlighting the impending deadline to submit changes and planned communication with OLRH. On Ben's motion, a majority vote was cast in favor of changing the lead, with the team agreeing to send individual confirmation emails to Dr. Wong and his staff.

A motion was made to retain BME Strategies as the shared services coordinator, without a termination date, and was unanimously voted upon. Mike praised William's previous work. The team expressed gratitude for the work of William, who is dealing with personal health issues.

Hybrid Meetings, Budget, and Digitization

The team explored the idea of transitioning to hybrid meetings, combining in-person and virtual attendance. They agreed to wait until a new SSC, BME, joins the team to facilitate these changes. A next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, confirmed by all attendees. Mike and Delshaune discussed the importance of productive and efficient meetings. They also discussed the budget for health departments and the need for all towns to sign the IMA to move forward. BME's participation in working on the initial spend down strategy was mentioned. Mike brought up the concept of digitization, noting its high cost, and a good investment for all, if they are not already fully digitized.

Team Gratitude and Potential Growth

Ben expressed gratitude for the team's efforts and acknowledged the challenges faced during the project thus far, highlighting the contributions of Delshaune and Gary. The potential addition of Hanson to the group was discussed, initially resisted due to concerns from their Board of Health, but Mike mentioned that the Board of Health chair has expressed interest in joining, which could lead to increased funding. The conversation ended with a unanimous expression of consensus to invite Hansen to attend the next meeting, with Mike highlighting the need for speed, as there are solid impending deadlines from OLRH.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn, passed by all.

ADJOURNED 10:06 AM

